

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 7, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON, of New Jersey, submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of Alexander B. Hagner and Daniel R. Hagner, guardians of the infant children of the late Major J. R. Hagner, of the United States army, praying for a pension, beg leave to report :*

That Major Hagner, a paymaster in the army of the United States, had, from the time of his entering the service of his country up to the year 1855, been free from disease, possessing a vigorous constitution which had been preserved by a strictly temperate life. In 1853 he was ordered to Texas, and served afterwards at Corpus Christi, whence he was ordered to Fort Brown, on the Rio Grande, and charged with the payment of the troops at the different posts for two hundred and fifty miles up and down the river. The severity of this labor, added to the insalubrity of the climate, seriously injured his health, and in the spring of 1856 he suffered severely from the intermittent fever of the country, accompanied by dysentery, and was advised by his physicians of the danger of his remaining longer in that climate. He then applied to the department to be relieved, and orders were issued to that effect; but the officer appointed to take his place was detained some time, and Major Hagner continued to perform the duties of his post, though suffering from sickness and great debility consequent thereupon. At length he became so worn down from disease, as induced the commanding officer of the department to grant him a sick leave, upon the certificate of Surgeon Head, of the army; but before he could avail himself of this leave, he received an order to attend a general court-martial, at Ringgold barracks, which convened in October, 1856. He attended the court, but became so much enfeebled that, when released from his attendance there, he was utterly unable to undertake a journey to New York, and, after suffering from bilious dysentery, died at Fort Brown, Texas, on the 6th of December, 1856.

Notwithstanding the committee believe that the late Major Hagner died from disease contracted in the line of his duty, they are not willing to establish the precedent granting pensions to the children of deceased officers, where there is no widow; and therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be denied

